

View results

Respondent

169 Anonymous

43:42

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE *

Wanda SLS

2. BRANCH *

- ☐ Far North Coast
- ☐ North Coast
- ☐ Mid North Coast
- ☐ Lower North Coast
- ☐ Hunter
- ☐ Central Coast
- ☐ Sydney Northern Beaches
- ☒ Sydney
- ☐ Illawarra
- ☐ South Coast
- ☐ Far South Coast

3. DATE OF INCIDENT *

28/10/2023

4. TIME OF INCIDENT *

11am

5. NAME/S OF LIFESAVERS(S)/LIFEGUARD(S) INVOLVED IN RESCUE (check that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard) *

Kai Thachter - Not sure of the IRB driver & crew.

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT *

Wanda Beach

7. SURFGUARD INCIDENT NUMBER (if available). *Please note all rescues should be recorded either during or after hours*

I don't have this information

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME *

Denny Rowlands

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS *

captain@wandaslsc.com.au

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER *

0401688221

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION *

Wanda SLSC

12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT *

Whilst competing in the U/17 Board Semi Final at the Wanda One Club Carnival, the competitors were met by multiple large set waves on the outer bank which required the competitors to roll in order to get through the set waves.

During these waves a couple of race mals went shooting into the air and across the other competitors in the break zone on the bank, after reaching the green water beyond the bank and narrowly missing the flying race mal in these heavy conditions, Kai Thatcher slowed and looked back over his shoulder for the competitors who had lost their board, this is when he realised that there was a competitor in the break zone and not moving.

Without hesitation Kai transitioned from Competitor to Life Saver, immediately responding to the competitor who was now a patient; Kai paddled back into the break zone to check on the patient, at this point Kai realised that the patient was not moving, he was red faced and just didn't look right, luckily at that point he was face up and not face down. Kai moved quickly to get the patient out of the water and to safety getting his head out of the water, protecting his airway, floating him onto his board and moving beyond the break zone with the patient who was suffering from a severe concussion.

Raising his arm to signal for assistance, Kai managed the patient for over 2 minutes in heavy swell until the IRB arrived and transferred the patient to shore. The patient was taken to Sutherland hospital for further medical assistance and released later that day.

The IRB drivers commended Kai on his quick thinking and actions during a race to turn from competitor to lifesaver in an instant and ensure the safety of another competitor/patient, a situation that would have ended so differently without the swift thinking of Kai.

Kai was not penalized for his heroic efforts, with the carnival officials awarding him a place in the final.

13. SKILL & RESOURCES APPLICATION (40%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's?
- Did the rescue/incident require advanced technical skills?
- Was the equipment chosen best for the conditions and skill level of the personnel?
- Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel? *

- Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's?

Yes - Kai was observant and recognized a person in trouble\at risk. He secured the patient removing them from a dangerous location in the water, recognized that their response was abnormal, signalled for assistance, and protected their airway while waiting for assistance - I would consider this to be text book DRSABCD.

- Did the rescue/incident require advanced technical skills?

Yes - Kai is a great board paddler and used these skills as intended

- Was the equipment chosen best for the conditions and skill level of the personnel?

Kai was on a racing Mal, though not the optimal board for a rescue, it was used appropriately

- Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel?

No question - Kai was in the right place at the right time, and was backed up by the IRB, the Wanda Patrol and carnival First Aid officers.

14. PROCEDURES FOLLOWED (30%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were SOP's followed?
- Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?
- Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene mgmt, paperwork, follow-ups, etc?
- Was the equipment utilised appropriately? *

- Were SOP's followed?

While not a text book rescue by a member on Patrol - Kai performed the rescue during a race with the tools at hand

- Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?

Yes - The carnival\race was taking place under the appropriate risk assessment \ management conditions

- Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene mgmt, paperwork, follow-ups, etc?

Yes - Once Kai signalled that he required assistance, the IRB was dispatched immediately to his location. Once the patient was returned to shore, Surfcom was contacted to call for an ambulance to transport the patient to hospital for advanced care.

- Was the equipment utilised appropriately?

Yes - A "Racing Mal" was used as a rescue board, Radios used to contact the IRB and surfcom, the IRB utilized to retrieve the patient to shore.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (15%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Was the incident around rocks, cliffs, or other precarious situations?
- What was the size of the surf, temperature, time, visibility, weather, and other environmental conditions at land or sea? *

The day was overcast, and the approximate temperature was 20 degrees, with moderate to fresh winds coming in from the south. The beach was open, with large surf at between 1.5m & 2.5m, with large sets crashing on the outer bank at Wanda.

16. MEDIA CAPTURE/COMMUNICATION (5%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? Please give a brief overview of media exposure. Any additional articles or media releases can be emailed to ROTMNOMINATION@surflifesaving.com.au or please paste url in box below *

No media exposure that I'm aware of.